



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



DEPARTMENT WELCOMES SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN

In September 2011, Governor Dennis Daugaard named Larry Zimmerman of Rapid City as the state's first Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Zimmerman, serving as the state command sergeant major in the South Dakota Army National Guard had commitments to the Guard and as such was unable to step into the secretary position until 2013. Zimmerman's role as secretary began January 8, 2013.

Zimmerman completed a tour in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom) as the Operations Sergeant Major for the nine northern provinces in that country and served many months of that tour as the Forward Operating Base Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge from 2008 to 2009. He was awarded a Bronze Star for that tour. Before that he was CSM at the 109th Engineer Battalion at Sturgis, CSM of the 109th Regional Support Group in Rapid City and the Regional Training Institute Commandant at Fort Meade. He served in the Active Army from March 1973 to October 1976 in the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado. He is a lifetime member of the VFW.

Zimmerman has been honored with the following decorations and awards: Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/star, Army Commendation Medal w/1 OLC, Army Achievement Medal w/ 1 OLC, Army Good Conduct Medal, Reserve Component Achievement Medal 5th Award, National Defense 3rd Award, Non Art 5 NATO ISAF Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon w/4, Army Service Ribbon. Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ M device, SD Distinguished Service Award, SD Recruiting Ribbon, SD Service Medal, and the SD Desert Storm Ribbon.

Zimmerman and his wife Dyann have three daughters (Misty, Crisha and Lanna) and five grandchildren.

Zimmerman plans to spend most of his first year visiting veterans and leaders within the veterans service organizations.

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MARSHALL COUNTY NAMES NEW CVSO

Marshall County has selected David Daberkow as their new County Veterans Service Officer. Daberkow replaces Bruce Howell who retired in December. David is a Navy in-country Vietnam Veteran.

David's office hours will be Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Contact information for the Marshall County VSO remains the same — physical address: 909 S. Main Street, mailing address: PO Box 986, Britton, SD 57430; phone number: 605-448-5190; fax number: 605-448-5966; and email address: vsomcsd@yahoo.com.

We at the Department wish Bruce the very best on his retirement and look forward to working with David.

GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO TO BOMA

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has appointed Robert Shepherd of Sisseton and Kim Vanneman of Ideal to the South Dakota Board of Military Affairs (BOMA), effective January 8.

Shepherd is tribal chairman of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate. He served as Petty Officer 2nd Class in the United States Navy from 1996 – 2004.

Vanneman is a farm business partner and a three-term member of the state House of Representatives. Her legislative term ends January 8.

Shepherd and Vanneman are additions to the Board of Military Affairs, which was expanded from five to seven members by the 2012 state Legislature at the request of the South Dakota Department of the Military.

The Board of Military Affairs deals with general management of the state's National Guard armories.

SIOUX FALLS VA HEALTHY LIVING FAIR

All veterans are invited to a "Healthy Living Fair" at the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center January 11, 2013, from 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Veterans (both those who use and those who do not use VA services) and their families are encouraged to attend.

VA staff will be on hand to help veterans be more involved in their health care, manage stress, eat wisely, be physically active, and learn how to get recommended screening tests and immunizations. In addition, healthy cooking classes, yoga, and tai chi classes will be available.

Veterans will have the opportunity to learn more about VA services – the patient centered care teams, diabetes prevention, weight loss program, low vision program, crisis intervention, MyHealth_{et} Vet internet service, secure messaging with health care providers, plus other wellness information. Attendees are also invited to pick up giveaways and enjoy healthy snacks while browsing the displays.

The health fair is sponsored by the VA Health Promotion Disease Prevention Committee. The Fair will be held in the 4th floor auditorium of the medical center at 2501 W. 22nd Street.

HARTMAN RETIRES

Lucy Hartman, the first voice you heard when you called the Department's Claims Office in Sioux Falls, has retired after 35 years with the State of South Dakota.

Hartman has been known as the Claims Office historian. She has been a part of the team training numerous county and tribal veterans service officers and had a front row seat as the office transitioned into an electronic office. Aaron Pollard, claims office supervisor, said "Lucy was like a boxer! Some days she won and some days she lost! But she always lived to fight another day and was always at the gym bright and early!"

"We wish Lucy the best in her retirement endeavors and thank her for her commitment and dedication to the Department and to South Dakota's veterans and their families," said Deputy Secretary Harding.

KING APPOINTED VABHHCS VETERANS JUSTICE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The VA Black Hills Health Care System (VABHHCS) is pleased to announce the appointment of Cathy King as the new Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator (VJO).

King will work on behalf of veterans who have legal issues that may have resulted from their service in the military. She will complete assessments of veterans in jail so they can be considered for admission to the Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder programs available through VA BHHCS.

In the courts, King will advocate for the veterans to help ensure that healthcare treatment is a part of any plan for their rehabilitation. She will also work with incarcerated veterans prior to their release to assist them with reintegration into community life.

Cathy has been with VA BHHCS for the past four years, working as a social worker at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center. She completed her Master of Social Work through Florida State University and her Bachelor of Social Work through Florida Atlantic University.



VABHHCS SEEKING ENTRIES FOR NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

The VA Black Hills Health Care System (BHHCS) is hosting its annual Veterans Creative Arts Show March 13 at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center. During this event entries are judged for the 2013 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival to be held in Reno, Nevada in October 2013.

The annual Festival is a culmination of fine arts talent competitions in art, music, drama and dance. The program is open to all veterans treated in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and clinics across the country. Entrants must compete through the VA at which they are registered, and entries must have been created since April 2012. Veterans are invited to submit entries in the following categories: fine and applied arts, crafts and performing arts (music, instrumental, drama and dance), and creative writing. Performing arts entries must be no more than three minutes in length, and there are certain size restrictions for fine and applied arts. Entries for the VA BHHCS show must be submitted and delivered by the veteran or designee to the Fort Meade VA Medical Center no later than February 15.

Interested Veterans should call Mike Ellis, 605-347-2511 (Ext. 7658), Kyle Doerges 605-347-2511 (Ext. 7582) for category information and show details.



VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

The Sioux Falls Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) will host its first Valentines for Veterans concert featuring country music recording artist James Wesley. The concert will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2013, at 3:00 PM at the Washington Pavilion (301 S. Main Avenue) in Sioux Falls.

Tickets are required, and general admission ticket distribution for veterans begins Monday, January 14. Veterans should call the VA Voluntary Services at 605-333-6851 Monday – Friday between 8:00 AM–3:30 PM to reserve their complimentary tickets. Veterans may receive up to four tickets. Others may also contact Voluntary Services to have their names put on a wait list for tickets. The concert pays tribute to veterans, who paid for this concert with their service and sacrifices and to Gold Star families who lost a loved one in military service.

Donations from businesses, Veterans Service Organizations, and individuals are making the concert possible.

Veterans can also learn more about VA services during a Veterans Benefits Fair, which will also be held at the Pavilion, prior to and after the concert. Information will be available regarding patient centered care teams, diabetes prevention, weight loss programs, low vision programs, crisis intervention programs, MyHealthVet internet services, secure messaging with health care providers, and service connected disability benefits, etc.

Upcoming Events

Jan. 11—SFVAHCS Health Fair—Sioux Falls VA
Feb. 4—VFW Legislative Reception
Feb. 5—American Legion Legislative Reception
Feb. 7—SDNG Legislative Dining Out
Feb. 8-10—American Legion Mid-Winter Conference—Cedar Shores in Oacoma
Feb. 9—SFVAHCS Valentines for Veterans Concert—Washington Pavilion—Sioux Falls, SD—3:00 pm
Mar. 14—VABHHCS Veterans Creative Arts Show—Fort Meade
Apr. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
May 3-5—DAV State Convention—The Lodge—Deadwood
Jul. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am

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